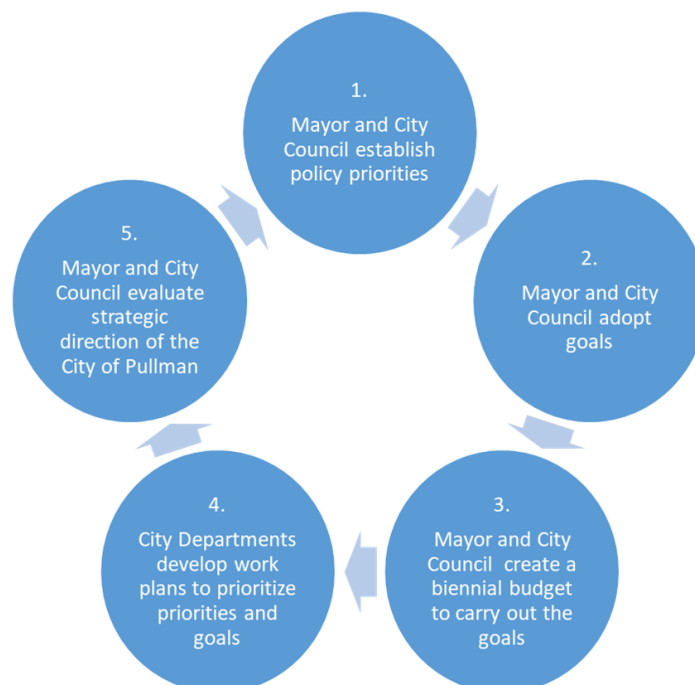


TO: Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Adam R. Lincoln, City Supervisor
DATE: October 5, 2019
SUBJECT: Update on City of Pullman Priorities and Goals

Purpose: This memo is to serve as a status update for the City Council's priorities and goals, adopted August 28, 2018.

The goals, which fall under the priorities, are a mix of short-, medium- and long-term items that the Mayor and City Council have determined are focus areas of city staff and community partners. This strategic plan is used to inform the city budget process and shapes priority funding. The strategic plan has been adopted by the City Council and shared with the community so as to help shape future focus areas for the City. The budget will then inform department work plans for at least the next two years. This feedback loop, provided by the guidance of the Mayor and City Council will shape the next chapters for the City of Pullman. It is critical that the elected officials meet on a regular basis to discuss the status of the strategic plan and to help shape and changes that should be in place as staff work to accomplish the goals set forth in the plan.



Goals Updates:

Community Identity

- *Downtown:* Downtown is a primary focus for the City Council. The City has engaged with a consulting firm who has been working on the development of a Master Plan for downtown Pullman. This process is likely to run into 2020, but the planning process will set the base for the future of downtown Pullman. This effort is a collaboration of both residents and business owners.
- *Economic Development:*
 - The City has recently hired its first-ever economic development personnel. Jennifer Hackman is excited to get started and will be reaching out to several stakeholders to help develop an economic development plan for Pullman.
 - The City Council was recently presented with the results of a housing assessment. A suggestion within the assessment was to create a regional task force to explore the need for regional housing strategy.
 - Pullman waterways are another consideration of the current goals. However, this item has not been fleshed out further except to add that the recent flooding has led to adjustments being made to include the encouragement of the demolition of an old carwash on Stadium and Grand as well as a review of the drainage system as it exists in downtown Pullman.
 - Pullman will continue to monitor the results of the future 2020 census and as a component will work with the regional transit organization as they evaluate the potential creation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- *Education:* High-quality education systems have been a key component to the success of the Pullman community. The City continues to support our local education institutions to the best of our ability.

Strategic Long-Term Planning

- *Infrastructure:*
 - The Complete Streets ordinance is highly anticipated and is expected to be drafted and presented to the City Council by January 2020.
 - Bypass routes are ever on the minds of residents. Public Works staff continue to work with WSDOT on the transition of right-of-way property to the City of Pullman for a north bypass route. In addition, there is a concern for the development of a south bypass route. While part of this road is already built, the remaining components would require the investment of the State in the form of a transportation budget line item or build-out of the properties that line that future roadway, most of which remain private property.

- City staff is monitoring the outcome of the I-976 initiative that is on the 2019 fall ballot. This item would severely hamper transportation investment via the State. An effort is also underway to assess the pavement on all of the streets in Pullman. The result will help to shape what the priorities are for street repairs throughout the City. Public Works staff also is preparing to present options to the City Council on other transportation funding options in 2020.
- Following the completion of the Downtown Master Plan, Public Works staff will begin to engage a consultant to help with a new bicycle and pedestrian plan.
- *Technology:*
 - The City continues to invest in technology that will assist our customers and modernize our practices. While we have made strides, the investments will continue as we bring technology is a rapidly evolving frontier. Investments include: online timesheets (nearly all departments are enrolled), a new city website (expected to roll out by the end of the year), online permit applications (public works is nearly complete with this roll out for single-family permits), GIS base layer (expected to be completed near the end of the year), implementation of a new phone system city-wide (expected by year-end), equipping all City Councilmembers and the Mayor with Microsoft Surfaces for mobile computing, and other investments coming soon. The IT team has been integral in helping to roll out these projects.
 - Credit card acceptance has been another topic that both finance and IT have been working on. There will be a credit card policy coming before the City Council towards the end of October and the city should be able to more widely accept cards by the end of the year.
- *City Services:* The Police Department has added a fourth Code Enforcement Officer to their team. The Officers are enhancing their training and are able to continue to focus on issues such as parking and nuisances.
- *Community Partnerships:*
 - The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport remains one of the most important ongoing projects for economic development. On October 10, 2019, the newly realigned runway will be open for use and the focus will start to turn to the potential new terminal. The funding for such a project is going to be a challenge, but support for this project is high throughout the local communities of both Pullman and Moscow.
 - Another key event on October 10, 2019, will be the PBAC Water Summit. This event is held annually and helps to provide a status update on the aquifer levels and information about potential projects to recharge the aquifer levels. The city is a strong proponent of the efforts of PBAC and strives to make water conservation programming a part of our culture, especially in Public Works.

Public Safety & Health

- *First Response:* Access for emergency vehicles is a constant concern as new road projects are designed.
- *Community Health:*
 - Pullman Regional Hospital continues to be a critical partner ensuring that Pullman is a healthy community. Their efforts to collaborate with the WSU School of Medicine helps to highlight their commitment to innovation and improved community health.
 - Last year, the City Council added the creation of a Climate Action Plan to their goals. The City Council has supported a resolution that was sent to the state's federal delegation in support of efforts to support legislation that would better our environment. The City Council has been approached to take further steps at the local level as well.
 - Electric busses are the next logical step for Pullman Transit to invest in. The City Council has approved the application for grants that would help the City to obtain both infrastructure and electric busses. The outcome of those applications is still unknown, but staff continues to monitor the progress.
 - The City of Pullman will continue to strive to make environmentally-friendly choices with how it does business. In addition to the electric busses, the city has been applying for grants for a solar project at the future city hall. The City is also working with partners like Avista to add more electric vehicle charging stations and is making the transition to using ultraviolet disinfectant methods at the wastewater treatment plant, rather than using chemicals to treat wastewater.
 - City staff helps direct those who are interested in obtaining services that support people with disabilities to organizations like Boost Collaborative. The Downtown Master Plan has an important component to make downtown Pullman more accessible. It is expected that many of these developed concepts will be easily portable to other projects around the community.
 - Police Chief Jenkins has obtained a trainer to help provide mental health first-aid coursework. He will be reaching out to key staff as well as our elected officials

Livability

- *Culture & Human Services:*
 - Diversity in a community is a great asset. Pullman's City Council has stated that it is a welcoming city and the new Welcome Wayside is a great homage to that philosophy. City events are a continual reminder of the strength of the diversity in our community. One way that the city can better show its commitment to diversity is by working with key members of the WSU team to help find new ways to promote the city's diversity. Working with the Vice President of Student Affairs

on this project to support the students of WSU will commence once normal scheduling resumes remains a priority.

- Last year the City Council supported the creation of a temporary warming shelter through the winter months. The facility that was used is now under construction for the future city hall and recreation center. Councilmember Weller had previously mentioned working closely with the faith-based community of Pullman to gain further commitment in terms of creating a similar facility in the coming winter.
- Comprehensive access has been mentioned in other parts of the City Council's goals and it remains a key priority. As projects are designed, such as potential downtown renovations, staff will ensure that the needs for the differently abled are a priority.
- *Housing/Neighborhood Planning:* There is a desire to update sections of City Code that relate to development. The Planning Department is about to undertake an analysis of their practices and procedures to determine areas that could be addressed. A part of that analysis will include looking at code language to determine what changes may be suggested to help in ensuring that development can occur in line with the desires of the community. A next step must be the completion of an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan so that staff can move on to other priorities involving community development. Another key item that the Planning Department will be evaluating is the potential for other forms of housing that will add density as well as affordability. This could include housing styles like "tiny homes," accessory dwelling units, and cottage housing.
- *Multimodal Transportation:* The City continues to support efforts to improve safety and access for people who are using roadways and trails as pedestrians and bicyclists. Support exists for the CAP Trail and for making improvements to the transportation network to ensure that Pullman is a safe and friendly place to be a pedestrian and a cyclist. Recent completion of such projects include ADA paths at Sunnyside Park and paving of the Itani Linear Path. Other similar projects will be completed on Military Hill in 2020.